



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: NM113**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: **State of New Mexico** (San Juan, Rio Arriba, Taos, McKinley, Los Alamos, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Cibola and Valencia Counties)  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: Northwest Quadrant of State

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objective for food animal veterinarians in northwestern NM is to service beef, dairy and sheep/goat operations. Many of the cow/calf ranches and dairies are family owned and operated. McKinley County has a beef cattle population of 32,000 and a sheep population of 39,000. A significant portion of northwestern NM is tribal land, with much of the cattle, sheep and goat production on Native American reservations. The herds and flocks are often widely scattered on what is generally poor quality range. Most of the dairies in this quadrant are in Valencia County. There are five livestock markets in the quadrant. Excluding Bernalillo, Los Alamos and Santa Fe Counties (largely metropolitan, relatively little agricultural activity), the remaining counties in the quadrant are large and rural (combined square mileage 33,938, population 459,967) and have relatively low per capita incomes (average of \$22,383). The food animal veterinarian to livestock ratio in these rural counties is low. There are 26 food animal veterinarians (FAV) for these counties to service 205,500 sheep and cattle (1FAV/7,900 animals). A Type II Shortage Veterinarian would spend at least 30% of their time providing herd health management, disease surveillance and regulatory duties and issuing Health Certificates.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

In order to fulfill the objectives, a food animal veterinarian in this area would be involved in: herd management; basic health care; disease surveillance for beef cattle, dairy cattle and small ruminants; performing the regulatory functions of a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, including issuing certificates for interstate and international livestock movement; brucellosis testing and vaccination; tuberculosis testing; development of disease management and cleaning/disinfection plans; and the recognition of signs of foreign animal diseases. Included in the time assessment is the mandatory recordkeeping associated with all of these tasks. Disease surveillance would also include testing and monitoring for tuberculosis, brucellosis, bovine trichomoniasis, bovine viral diarrhea, scrapie, and pseudorabies.

Of particular importance in this quadrant of the State is the interface between private practitioners in the area with tribal veterinarians and tribal livestock inspectors on the expansive Navajo Nation as well as other Native American tribal lands in the quadrant.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

There have been attempts by the multiple State agencies to develop incentives for livestock practitioners. An agreement with Kansas State Univ. to admit qualified NM students from agricultural backgrounds has stalled due to lack of funding. The burden of supplying more livestock practitioners to the area continues to fall on the shoulders of existing practitioners, who find it challenging to attract veterinarians away from the higher salaries and perceived better quality of life that the metropolitan areas provide. Financial incentives are vital in any efforts to attract veterinarian practitioners to these rural areas.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

New Mexico's livestock industry has a long history steeped in family tradition. Many of the cattle/calf ranches and dairies are family owned and operated; however, NM is also known for having some of the largest corporate dairies in the nation. The state's economy benefits a great deal from the revenue generated by the livestock industry and many New Mexicans are employed by ranches and dairies. New Mexico is the nation's fifth-largest state and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> nationally in milk production. Milk is the state's #1 cash commodity at \$1.36 billion and cattle/calves second at \$999 million. The situation for the existing food animal veterinarians across the state is one of very long hours trying to service a large number of livestock over hundreds of square miles. Not only does this put a strain on the veterinarians and their families but also does a disservice to the livestock producers and compromises efforts by regulatory agencies to deal with the animal diseases that can affect both animal and public health. Proper disease surveillance is at risk because there are not enough veterinarians in the area to service the food animal industry need. The existing veterinary force for this area is doing an excellent job with the resources they have, but they are stretched too thin. More veterinarians are crucial to keep our food animals healthy and ensuring the safety of our food supply.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dave E. Fly, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

Email: dave.fly@state.nm.us

Telephone Number: (505) 841-6161  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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